

Application No. 09/963,330

Reply to Office Action

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action dated March 14, 2005, and the references cited therein. In response, applicant has canceled, without prejudice, claims 124, 125, 144-146, and 150; amended claims 120-123 and 152; and added claims 153-159 to further define the invention. Applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 120-152 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 103 and 112 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. Des. 351,330 to Ming-Chang in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,964,192 to Marui and as being indefinite, respectively. In response to the § 112 rejections, applicant has eliminated reference to "average hand width of an assigned group of hands" in the claims. Although applicant respectfully maintains that such language is sufficiently clear, particularly when viewed in light of the specification, applicant wishes to expedite the prosecution of the application inasmuch as the claims as amended herein without such reference are nonetheless patentably distinguishable over the applied art. In addition, with respect to the § 112 rejections, claim 120 has been amended to recite that the maxima are defined by distance vectors that are substantially perpendicular to each other relative to a two-dimensional Cartesian coordinate system. It is respectfully submitted that the Section 112 rejections are thus traversed.

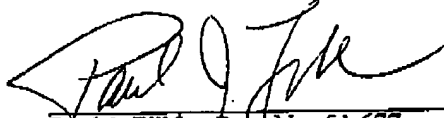
Applicants also respectfully traverse the § 103 rejections. For example, the applied references in the instant Office Action do not teach or suggest the handle of amended claim 120 having a convex portion with a curvature forming a three-dimensional surface that bulges outwardly in two directions substantially perpendicular to each other relative to a two-dimensional Cartesian coordinate system orientated perpendicular to the longitudinal axis; a center part that is asymmetrical relative to two perpendicular planes; and radii of curvature of the finger section greater than the corresponding radii of curvature of the palm section.

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The application is considered to be in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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